

Hosting an Alberta Party House Meeting

What is an Alberta Party house meeting?

A house meeting is an informal meeting of 8 to 20 people in your home or another location of your choice. In house meetings, a volunteer host invites neighbours, peers, co-workers or friends to talk about the pressures or challenges they are facing and what their hopes are for their families and communities. House-meetings are where we begin to surface the issues that are really important to Albertans.

Membership in the Alberta Party is not required to host or to participate in a house meeting.

The best house meeting(s) will involve people with different experiences, different perspectives and different dreams about the future. We're all in this together.

The goals of a house meeting are to:

- Share and learn about the pressures people are experiencing
- Motivate and inspire people through personal stories of hope and action
- Identify the interests, perspectives, and concerns of Albertans
- Build new relationships and discover talents and capacities
- Extend the chain of house meetings and sign up more people to our Big Listen News List and encourage people to spread the word

A good House Meeting should be fun and enjoyable. Don't be afraid to be creative. Have a potluck, open wine, get beer or go out for coffee.

Basic agenda of a house meeting:

Generally, meetings last for about an hour and have the following components:

1. Introduce yourself as the host and share a little bit about yourself. Why are you hosting a house meeting? Why are you interested in supporting a new way of doing politics in Alberta? *Note this is a listening event so no one is allowed to dominate with their views.*
2. Ask people to introduce themselves in short one-to-one conversations and to talk about their family story in Alberta. How long have they lived here? How are they feeling about Alberta lately?
3. Invite each person to talk about the **pressures** they and their families/households, and communities are facing in today's Alberta. Ask them to also talk about their **hopes** for their families and communities. *Give people a few minutes to reflect prior to starting each piece.*
4. Thank people for their participation and inform them about opportunities to get involved with the Big Listen. **Close with a round on what people are grateful for about Alberta.**
5. Meetings should not be more than 90 minutes. They must start and **END** on time.



What does a host do?

A house-meeting host must be willing to connect with 15 to 30 people in their network of relationships. The host has a few simple tasks:

- Make a list of people to invite to the meeting.
- Call and meet with potential guests, tell them about the meeting, and persuade them to come.
- Contact invitees 1 to 2 days before the event to confirm attendance.
- Host the meeting. Some hosts serve light refreshments; others organize a potluck dinner to get people together. Be creative.
- Record all relevant contact data.
- Ensure the whole discussion is documented using the tools provided and forwarded on to constituency organizers.
- Provide people with information on how they can further their involvement with the Alberta Party.

Who should be invited to a house meeting?

Those who attend a house meeting should be members of your community; such as your neighbours friends, or co-workers - an ideal meeting will contain a mix of people you know. At the same time, the host should try to invite individuals who go beyond their "usual suspects." We want people with a variety of experiences, and people who are open to listening. We need to reach beyond our most intimate circle of connections and take some risks with people we don't know as well.

See below for example of how to invite someone to a house meeting

Hello. I am hosting a house meeting as part of the Big Listen. The Big Listen is a campaign of the Alberta Party. The Alberta Party is a new party in provincial politics and they are doing politics in a completely different way. They are gathering Albertans together across the province in house meetings to hear about what we are facing, and to hear about the kind of Alberta we want. I am hosting one of these house meetings. There is no propaganda or membership requirement. You just have to live in Alberta. Are you able to attend? Do you know anyone else who might be interested in attending?

What will we ask people to do?

- Sign up for the Big Listen Newsletter
- Host a house meeting of their own
- Organize another kind of listening event they feel make work in their community
- Join the Constituency Organizing Team

How do we measure the success of a house meeting?

A house meeting is successful if people show up and speak openly, if a variety of people attend, and if people are moved to take concrete action and/or volunteer to host their own house meetings. People will respond if we listen carefully to their interests and hopes, record them accurately and collect all their data.

